

CLAIMS:

1. A communications interface device for transferring signals between a Computer and telephone, the interface device comprising:

a housing;

5 processing means accommodated by the housing for processing signals received from the Computer and the telephone;

first connecting means in or on the housing connectable to the Computer so that signals can be transmitted between the first connecting means and the Computer, the first connecting means also
10 being connected to the processing means; and

a second connecting means in or on the housing connectable to a telephone so that signals can be transmitted between the second connecting means and the telephone, the second connecting means also being connected to the processing means.

15 2. A communications interface device as claimed in claim 1 wherein the housing comprises a substantially enclosed box, the box having an externally provided recess for receiving a telephone.

20 3. A device as claimed in claim 2 wherein the recess is configured so that the telephone is oriented in a substantially vertical position so that the antenna thereof is positioned for optimal signal strength.

4. A communications interface device as claimed in claim 1 wherein the first connecting means is an RJ-11 plug.

5. A communications interface device as claimed in claim 1 wherein the first connecting means is a serial port.

6. A communications interface device as claimed in claim 1 wherein the first connecting means is a USB port.

7. A communications interface device as claimed in claim 1 wherein the first connecting means comprises an infra red transceiver.

8. A communications interface device as claimed in claim 1 wherein the telephone is a land telephone which transmits signals through cables.

9. A communications interface device as claimed in claim 1 wherein the telephone is a wireless telephone.

10. A communications interface device as claimed in claim 1 wherein the wireless telephone is one selected from the group consisting of a cellular and PCS telephone.

11. A communications interface device as claimed in claim 1 wherein the processing means comprises a modem.

12. A communications interface device as claimed in claim 1 wherein the processing means comprises an acoustic coupler.

13. A communications interface device as claimed in claim 1 wherein the processing means comprises a modem and an acoustic coupler.

14. A communications interface device as claimed in claim 12 further comprising a microphone and speaker forming part of the acoustic coupler.

15. A communications interface device as claimed in claim 12 further comprising a headset plug for connection to a cellular phone, the headset plug forming the communications interface.

16. A communications interface device as claimed in claim 1 wherein the second connecting means comprises an RJ-11 port.

17. A communications interface device as claimed in claim 1 wherein the second connecting means comprises a serial cable-port

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connector.

18. A communications interface device as claimed in claim 1 wherein the second connecting means comprises a 2.5mm cable.

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19. A communications interface device as claimed in claim 1 further comprising a power source.

20. A device as claimed in claim 19 wherein the power source is a battery.

21. A device as claimed in claim 19 wherein the power source is external power and the device comprises an AC connector to receive such power.

22. A communications interface device as claimed in claim 1 wherein the first connecting means is a compact flash or PCMCIA connection.

23. A communications interface device as claimed in claim 1 wherein the second connecting means is a compact flash or PCMCIA connection.

24. A communications interface device as claimed in claim 1 further comprising a dial-up Internet access and software for use with a plurality of Computers having a plurality of operating systems.

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25. A communications interface device comprising:

a casing comprising a base portion and a lid hinged thereto, the lid being movable between an open and closed position with respect to the base portion, the casing defining a chamber;

a microphone located within the chamber;

a speaker located within the chamber;

means for varying the distance between the microphone and the speaker;

a power source;

at least one connection port to facilitate communication between the interface device and a Computer; and

a modem connected to the microphone and/or speaker as well as the connection port.

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26. A communications interface device as claimed in claim 25 further comprising acoustic insulation members on the speaker and microphone.

27. A device as claimed in claim 25 wherein the power source comprises a battery located within the housing.

28. A device as claimed in claim 25 wherein the power source is external to the interface device, and the interface device further comprises an AC connector for receiving such power.

29. A device as claimed in claim 25 wherein the connection port comprises an infra red transceiver.

30. A device as claimed in claim 25 wherein the connection port comprises a USB connector.

31. A device as claimed in claim 25 wherein the connection port comprises an RJ-11 connector.

32. A device as claimed in claim 25 further comprising attachment means on the exterior of the casing to facilitate attachment of the interface device.

33. A communications interface comprising:
processing means for processing signals between a Computer and a telephone;

first connecting means connectable to the Computer and the processing means; and

a second connecting means connectable to the telephone and the processing means.

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34. A method for transferring signals between a Computer and telephone, the method comprising:

providing processing means for processing signals received from the Computer and the telephone;

connecting first connecting means to the processing means, the first connecting means being connectable to the Computer so that signals can be transmitted between the first connecting means and the Computer; and

connecting second connecting means to the processing means, the second connecting means being connectable to the telephone so that signals can be transmitted between the second connecting means and the telephone.